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LABOUR ORGANISER

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BURTON C.L.P. (Marginal Constituency with sponsored Candidate).—Applications are invited for the post of Secretary/Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms from Councillor C. W. Shepherd, 34 Gordon Street, Burton-on-Trent, to whom they should be returned not later than Saturday, 28th March, 1953.

DERBY BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY require Assistant Full-time Agent to work under the direction of the Borough Party Secretary. Duties will consist mainly of field work. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Derby Labour Party, 29 Charnwood Street, Derby, to whom they should be returned not later than 21st March, 1953.

SAFFRON WALDEN C.L.P. Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from Mr. F. E. Elliott, C.C., White House, Sible Hedingham, Essex, to whom they must be returned not later than 28th March, 1953.

HALIFAX C.L.P. Applications are invited for the position of Secretary/Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms are obtainable from Secretary, Halifax Labour Party, 7 St. James Street, Halifax, Yorks., to whom they should be returned not later than Saturday, 21st March, 1953.

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MARCH, 1953

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Who Can Be a Councillor?

ABOUT this time of the year we receive numerous letters about the qualifications necessary to be a candidate in local government elections. Other letters raise the question of possible disqualification of a person because of the nature of his employment.

Let us first look at the qualifications.

Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1933, states: 'A person shall, unless disqualified by virtue of this Act or any other enactment, be qualified to be elected and to be a member of a local authority if he is of full age and a British subject (or citizen of the Republic of Ireland) and

- (a) he is a local government elector for the area of the local authority; or
- (b) he owns freehold or leasehold land within the area of the local authority; or
- (c) he has during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day of election resided in the area of the local authority.'

Any one of the three qualifications is sufficient.

Where no disqualification exists, this means that any British subject of full age can stand if holding one or more of these qualifications. A British subject includes those born within Her Majesty's dominion and allegiance, a naturalised British subject, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland. In cases of doubt reference should be made to the British Nationality Act, 1948.

Local Government elector. This is clear and specific. It refers to a person who is entered on the Register of Electors in operation on the day of his nomination.

Owner of freehold or leasehold land.

This qualification is wide in its interpretation. Section 305 of the Act lays down that, 'Land includes any interest in land and any easement or right in, to or over land.' Many candidates base their qualification to stand on this. It is therefore necessary to make certain of the position before writing to Head Office, especially if questioning the qualification of an opponent. It should be noted that land, in law, includes buildings on the land. An owner or lessee of a garage or shed built on the land is, therefore, an 'owner'. This qualification is in no way linked to the £10 rateable value.

Twelve months' residence. Whereas both of the other qualifications relate to nomination day, this one is linked to the day preceding the day of election (polling-day).

Again, the word 'residence' is wide in its interpretation. The safe rule to apply, however, is that residence implies the making of a home and sleeping there. Living on business premises, including the cooking of meals, would not constitute residence if the person regularly slept elsewhere. The guiding principle in the right to be nominated implies a close relationship between candidate and the local area in question.

Incidentally, this qualification sustains a person for the whole period of office if elected, whereas the first and second have to be maintained. Whenever possible, include this qualification in the form of Consent to Nomination.

Section 59 of the Local Government Act, 1933, lays down the disqualifications. So far as we are concerned the first (1) (a) is the most important. This reads as follows: 'Subject to the provisions of this (continued on page 60)

"Salesmanship"

IT is time somebody put in a good word for the printed matter that comes out of Labour Party Headquarters. In recent years the standard has been greatly raised, and there never was a greater variety in character nor a higher quality of production than nowadays.

A great deal of thought and care and professional skill contribute to produce this result. One sometimes doubts whether an equal amount of effort and enterprise is put forth in the constituencies to place these productions in the hands they are meant to reach and to encourage the careful reading of them. A thorough stock-taking throughout the country in Party offices, secretaries' cupboards and other glory-holes, might be very revealing.

Compared with pre-war times, paper is dear and printings costs are high. You may depend upon it that anything that is cheap will be used—or misused—wastefully, and there isn't much that can be done about it; but it irks me to see material that has become costly still misused or not used at all.

* * *

Feeling a little enfeebled after the day's toil, I strayed the other evening into a haunt of working chaps, and there I met the fellow who drives the comical Hornby train up the branch line to the small country town where he is chairman of the Local Labour Party. His democracy is of rather aggressive type, and scalding criticism of Transport House and all its doings is an integral part of his religion. Over his beer he was reading the current issue of the *People's Pictorial*.

'Not a bad number,' said I, a little dubiously, prepared for a broadside in return.

'No,' said he, 'in fact it's a pretty good un. As good for the kids as the grown-ups, and all the women'll go barmy over it. D'yer know the best way to sell a thing like this?' he asked, rather truculently, I thought.

I deemed it best to be meek. 'You tell me,' I replied disarmingly.

'Take it round the streets and hand one in at every house. *Hand* it in, don't shove it under the door. Ask them to read it and tell them you'll call for it back later in the week. Then go back a couple of days later, and ask if they've read it and if they would like to buy it and keep it. If not, collect it off 'em, but you'll find a lot of 'em'll hand you the coppers.'

'Seems a jolly good scheme,' I commented.

* * *

'Tell yer another thing, mate,' he continued, warming up. 'What d'yer know about selling pamphlets at meetings?'

'Not much,' said I.

'Well, we had a meeting once at home, and yer know our folks are all right but they like to keep their oof in their pockets, but we got it out all right that night. We had a crowd of about three hundred and sold over eleven quids' worth of literature.'

'Gerraway,' said I, deeply impressed. 'How did you do that?'

'Tell yer next time I see yer, I've gotta go and pick me train up now.'

He drained the remains of his pint, wiped his mouth on the back of his hand, and rolled across the road to the station, leaving me pondering. A large number of Labour Party public meetings took place last week-end. I wonder how many of them sold pamphlets at the rate of ninepence a head to their audiences. I must get that story off my forceful friend, maybe for next month.

DO NOT FORGET SICK MEMBERS

Says J. A. W. DOUGLAS

'By their deeds ye shall know them.'

THIS is not going to be a sermon, nor am I going to preach, either to the converted or unconverted. The simple fact is that I've been ill for the past three years and know what it is to feel lonely, to imagine that in spite of 43 years' service I have been forgotten.

So, I feel I have a message to give to fellow agents. What kind of fellowship, if any, have you in your party? Is your party merely concerned with winning elections?

To many parties, my suggestion will not apply, for possibly fellowship among the members is the reason for their success.

George Lansbury and Alfred Salter were both good Socialists and good Christians. Both tried to practise what they preached. They were known by all and sundry as 'good men' and as such were able to win over to our cause large numbers of people who appreciated their sincerity, their character and their fellowship. They were both a good advertisement for the Socialist creed and for the Labour Party.

We can't all be Lansburys or Salters, but we can within the Party develop the spirit of real fellowship and comradeship and make our work for the movement something more than an endeavour to win elections.

I know of a candidate who has not sent even a postcard of good wishes to his agent, who is very much on the sick-list.

I know of a party whose women's section always had 'a kindly-thought box' available at meetings, into which members were invited to put a copper or two, so that a little fruit and flowers could be purchased and taken on visits to sick members.

We can all have fellowship at our socials and meetings, but what about the sick or the aged member? In what way does your party keep in touch with him and make him feel he is not forgotten?

JOHN DOUGLAS, Agent at Bermondsey, Reading and the Isle of Wight, now retired and living at 35 Cross Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight, with this article sends greetings to all his colleagues and expresses the wish to hear from them.

Very humbly I suggest that on the agenda for meetings of the general committee and ward association there should be an item 'sick members'. Those present should be invited to give the name of any member known to be ill. And why not form a sick visiting committee?

It is not right to expect the agent to do the job. The agent, however, should sponsor this idea as a matter of first principle and of prime importance. Putting it at its lowest value, looking after sick and aged members would be a good advertisement for the Party and cut down drastically the number of members who drop out each year.

For my part I would say we're poor Socialists if we have not time to remember and help those of our comrades who happen to be unfortunate enough to fall out of service temporarily or otherwise because of sickness or age.

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BIG MOVE FORWARD IN LINCOLNSHIRE

by

G. THOMAS, Agent, Rutland and Stamford

THE difficulties facing C.L.P.'s. in rural areas are numerous and have to be experienced to be believed. Year after year small bands of people retain their membership with the sole satisfaction of knowing that by this method the Labour Party will be kept alive. Financial and organisational worries are always present and tangible rewards for the hard work carried out are few.

Rutland and Stamford was such a constituency until 1952, but I think it would be better for me to recall the story of our progress, hoping that other rural areas will take heart and press on with the task.

We entered the battle in 1951 with 400 members and four weak Local Parties. In spite of our poor fighting machine we managed to increase our poll to a record of 15,126 and the Tory majority was reduced to 2,723. The General Election post mortem produced only the old adages 'We must improve our organisation' and 'The villages let us down'. The first adage was true, the second was wrong.

Our constituency covers two large and sparsely populated counties, made up of 130 or more villages, the small Borough of Stamford (8,000 electors) and two small market towns of Oakham and Bourne (3,000 electors each). With no large populated centres the task facing us was the organisation of our villages.

Cashing in on the enthusiasm of the General Election, meetings were held in the larger villages and during December, 1951, three new local parties were formed, each with over one hundred members. This success made us even keener to renew our efforts in the new year and four or five volunteers promised two evenings per week for canvassing.

To recall the very many happy evenings spent in the villages would fill numerous pages, and I must be content to give the details of our early efforts, for they illus-

trate the pattern of events that took place throughout the year.

Woolsthorpe by Belvoir is the estate village of the Duke of Rutland, having a fine castle and from the outward appearance many features of feudalism. A tough nut for the start of our campaign, but it proved an ideal training ground for our canvass team and for the Assistant Regional Organiser, who came along to lend a very valuable hand.

Dispensing with the usual paraphernalia of loud-speakers, literature, etc., our only weapons of attack were pencils, membership cards and forms. Door to door, we covered most of the village by 9.30, when we adjourned to the 'local', to be greeted by new friends and indeed to enroll more members. One score was thirty-five members, numerous promises and, before we left, arrangements were made to call a meeting, a collector was appointed and several people offered to take on the duties of officers.

Two evenings later we advanced on Denton, the neighbouring village, to find that our success at Woolsthorpe had reached the ears of our supporters and our task of enrolling members was made even easier. Both Local Parties were formed within a week of our visits and all meetings are now dove-tailed so that the prospective candidate or C.L.P. officers can visit both villages on the same evening.

The same effort continued throughout the year, resulting in a final membership of 2,089. Twenty-one Local Labour Parties are now flourishing, but we have only touched the fringe of our potential membership and numerous requests for village organisations must be covered by our 1953 campaign.

We have been successful because of the enthusiasm of our workers, who have given up their spare time and in the case of two members parts of their annual holiday. I am certain that in all rural areas there is an untapped supply of members and workers of the highest quality but they need encouragement.

Easy Way of Recording Members

by D. F. WHARTON

THE essentials demanded of a workable system of membership recording are: that it should be capable of being operated by anyone with little or no difficulty, that it can be kept up-to-date easily in order to present an accurate picture, and, finally, that the picture itself is complete.

Far too often over-regard to the cost in time and material leads to apathy in this matter, but there is a card, obtainable from Transport House, which forms the basis of a simple system fulfilling all the above requirements at very small cost. This is the standard 'Application for Individual Membership' card, LCPS 5645 S.

Let us follow such a system from the enrolment of Mr. A. Bee as a member of the Upanatom Divisional Party. Our friend is enrolled on his doorstep, by the block steward for the area carrying out a routine individual campaign, and is issued with his membership card after having filled in and signed the application form. This is passed by the steward to the ward membership secretary, along with all the additional information gleaned from Mr. Bee.

It is at this stage that the application is transformed into a record card of convenient size for reference and filing. Here let us look into the materials required in addition to the original card. These are few in number and cheap in price.

An old paint-shade catalogue, for instance, will provide, when the pages are cut into strips $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in., sufficient colour-tabs to last a lifetime. Or a few off-cuts of coloured card from your printer—you can always scrounge something of this nature. Similarly, several odd pieces of hardboard, about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, can be obtained from a joiner or hobbies shop to make a filing box, 9 in. long by $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide by 3 in. deep inter-

nally, which will hold 2—3,000 cards and any partitions you may desire.

This initial effort will take perhaps an hour and the subsequent marking-up of each card a couple of minutes. Is this too long—or too expensive?

If not we may consider the actual card and method of preparation. Already completed on enrolment is name and address, ward and constituency, Trade Union and any other associate organisation, and, of course, the original signature. To this may be added Mr. Bee's electoral block.

Then, by means of the prepared colour-tabs stuck on the top of the same side, the information that he is willing and able to speak—an initial written on the tab will indicate on what subjects. Another tab denotes he is also willing to canvass, and a further one the fact that his car is available at election times, or on polling day—the number of the vehicle can also be written on or under the tab.

So far we have not yet touched the back of the application—which is conveniently blank. Here we can allow our individual ideas full play on twenty-four square inches of virgin card. Several such ideas will present themselves, but amongst the most useful are the date of Mr. Bee's enrolment and a ruled column for recording his future subscriptions. Any Offices held in the Party or in his Trade Union may be noted, but leave a little space for any changes needed to keep the card up-to-date.

The subscription column ruled along the width will last for at least two years and then can be renewed by an inch-wide gummed paper strip.

Such a record filed alphabetically is more than half the battle, and is so little trouble that a duplicate file can be prepared by constituency membership secretaries, so that the system itself becomes the best guarantee that the information it contains is used continually and effectively.



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It Depends on the Basement

THIS copy of *Labour Organiser* passed through the basement at Transport House, for in the basement is housed the Despatch Department, which handles every publication (pamphlets, leaflets, posters, journals, circulars) that is issued by the Labour Party.

Every letter and every parcel going out from any department of the Labour Party goes down to the Despatch Department to be weighed and franked by the special stamping machine, and then to join the mountain of mail that goes off to the Post Office every day.

The Despatch Department is housed in the basement, not as a penalty or assessment of its value, but purely for convenience. It has to have easy access to the road to simplify the loading or unloading of mail vans and railway delivery trucks.

Burly, genial Will Green is head of the department, nowadays he has a staff of six; he remembers the day he joined the Despatch staff 33 years ago, when there were only two. That was in the wistfully-remembered Eccleston Square days, when the only regular publications were 'Labour Woman', a duplicated Press Service, and the magazine 'Labour', shared with the T.U.C., and when circulations tended to be on the low side.

To-day there is the fortnightly *Talking Points*, the monthlies *Fact*, *Socialist Advance*, *Press Service*, *Labour Woman*, and, of course, *Labour Organiser*; there are regular leaflets and circulars, discussion and policy pamphlets, and posters of many different sizes. And there is a vastly-increased membership waiting to receive its publications on time.

In a smaller ante-room off the main room is housed an ingenious machine that folds leaflets and papers down to envelope size. This machine can fold 2,000 papers an hour—and when a rush starts it will be working all day for several days.

The biggest single job handled by the Despatch Department is the distribution of membership cards—over a million have to be sent out every year. The biggest journal distribution is *Fact*, the monthly magazine, which has to go out to newspaper wholesalers all over the country.

When a full circulation letter is being sent out, the Department will fill up as many as sixteen mail-bags a day for several days. In an average week, over 200 separate parcels have to be sent out. And over the year it is estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 parcels are sent off by rail-way.

The really heavy work comes, however, with a General Election. Then, extra staff have to be brought in, and all have to work overtime to keep up with the great flow of leaflets, pamphlets, posters, campaign notes and circulars.

It would be very easy for a bottleneck to develop in the Despatch Department, for correspondence and material from all other departments is naturally greatly increased, and it all has to pass down to the basement.

But a bottleneck never has developed, and Will Green and his team are a good guarantee that one never will.



NEW AGENTS

THE following Agency appointments have been approved by the National Executive Committee:

E. W. COLLETT. Bristol South East has appointed Ernest Collett as Secretary/Agent, in succession to Eric Rowe, who is now at Ruskin College on a T.U.C. Scholarship. Aged 31, formerly a railway signalman, he was agent at the 1951 General Election for Stratford-on-Avon.

MISS JEAN HARDY. Aged 22, a short-hand-typist, Jean Hardy succeeds Norman Atkinson at Droylsden. She has been active in the Farnworth Constituency over the past few years, and was assistant agent at the 1950 and 1951 General Elections.

R. J. W. PINFOLD. Birmingham Borough Labour Party has appointed Robert Pinfold as Assistant Organiser. 31 years of age, he was previously employed by the G.P.O. and during the past 8 years has held various Party offices in the Yardley Constituency.

**CALENDAR FOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**
ENGLAND and WALES
Including Metropolitan Boroughs

POLLING DAY: THURSDAY, 7th MAY, 1953

Notice of Election	Tuesday, 14th April
Delivery of Nomination Papers and Consent to nomination not later than NOON	Tuesday, 21st April
Notice of decisions on Nomination and publication of Statement of persons nominated by NOON	Wednesday, 22nd April
Declaration, in writing, of Name and Address of Election Agent not later than NOON	Thursday, 23rd April
Delivery of Notice of Withdrawal not later than NOON	Thursday, 23rd April
Application for Extension of Polling Hours not later than NOON	Thursday, 23rd April
Notice of Poll	Friday, 1st May
Notice of Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents not later than	Monday, 4th May
POLLING DAY	Thursday, 7th May
The Count	As soon as practicable after Close of Poll
Claims to be sent to Election Agent in respect of Election Expenses by	Thursday, 21st May
Payments, by Election Agent, of claims in respect of Election Expenses by	Thursday, 4th June
Return and Declaration of Election Agent as to Election Expenses by	Thursday, 11th June
Declaration by Candidate	Within seven days of actual delivery of Agent's Return and Declaration.

Note : Where the Declaration of Poll is made on the following day (after midnight of 7th May) another day can be added for Claims, Payments and Returns.

Urban and Rural Districts

DAY OF ELECTION (Polling Day) ..	Monday, 4th May		Tuesday, 5th May	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Notice of Election	8th April	10th April	9th April	11th April
Delivery of Nomination Papers and Consent not later than NOON	15th April	17th April	16th April	18th April
Notice of decisions on Nominations and publication of Statement as to persons nominated by NOON	18th April	18th April	20th April	20th April
Declaration, in writing, of Name and Address of Election Agent not later than NOON	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Delivery of Notices of Withdrawals by NOON	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Application for Extension of Polling Hours not later than NOON	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Notice of Poll	28th April	28th April	29th April	29th April
Notice of Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents not later than	30th April	30th April	1st May	1st May
Day of Election	4th May	4th May	5th May	5th May
The Count				
Claims to be sent to Election Agent in respect of Election Expenses by	18th May	18th May	19th May	19th May
Payment, by Election Agent, of claims in respect of Election Expenses by	1st June	1st June	2nd June	2nd June
Return and Declaration of Election Agent as to Election Expenses by	8th June	8th June	9th June	9th June
Declaration of Candidate as to Election Expenses	The Declaration can be sent within 15 days of the date of the election to ensure the Declaration is submitted before the date of the election.			

Note : Where the declaration of payment of expenses, and Returns.

FOR Council Elections, 1953

Wednesday, 6th May		Thursday, 7th May		Friday, 8th May		Saturday, 9th May	
RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
April	13th April	11th April	14th April	13th April	15th April	14th April	16th April
April	20th April	18th April	21st April	20th April	22nd April	21st April	23rd April
April	21st April	22nd April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	30th April	1st May	1st May	2nd May	2nd May	4th May	4th May
May	2nd May	4th May	4th May	5th May	5th May	6th May	6th May
May	6th May	7th May	7th May	8th May	8th May	9th May	9th May

may be practicable after Close of the Poll

May	20th May	21st May	21st May	22nd May	22nd May	23rd May	23rd May
June	3rd June	4th June	4th June	5th June	5th June	6th June	6th June
June	10th June	11th June	11th June	12th June	12th June	13th June	13th June

of the Election Agent submitting the Return of Election Expenses, but it is wisest to time.

the following day (after midnight) then another day can be added for Claims,

ALF JAMES OF MILES PLATTING

HERBERT DRINKWATER

remembers an old comrade and tells
of a battle fought long ago

LABOUR Agents live long. But not for ever. And so that fine old agent, Alf. James, of Miles Platting, Manchester, passed on a few weeks ago at the ripe age of 83.

But 'Alf James, of Platting, Manchester, is a misdescription, though he was known as that to nearly all the present Labour generation. Born in London, in 1869, Alf. didn't go to Manchester till he was 43, there to begin his 30 year long association with his great colleague, J. R. Clynes, M.P., also born in 1869, but in Oldham.

And that first half of Alf's life was full of incident, and perhaps to him the happiest and fullest years of all. For he was one of those who, with George Lansbury, made history, and made Poplar famous for its great Poor Law fights of Labour's early days. For six years he was a member of Poplar Borough Council: he had been Chairman of Poplar Health Committee, writing too on Poor Law Reform. Like Clynes, his early associations had been with the old I.L.P.—Chairman and Secretary in due course of the Bow and Bromley I.L.P.

Thus moulded, Alf., as I knew him then, was a loving, restless soul, who, soon after he went to Manchester in 1912 found kindred restless souls in the few other agents dotted about Lancashire. In 1915 they began to meet and founded a loose kind of association.

In January, 1916, that Association blossomed forth, and Alf. James convened a National Conference at Bristol, whereat was born the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents, with Alf. as Secretary. I have before me a list of the first members, and, of the first twenty-five, all I believe, are dead, but one: and that one was No. 1, the first member of the Association, none other than George Shepherd (The Rt. Hon. Lord Shepherd, P.C.), late National Agent, at that time agent at Blackburn, and for many years Chairman of the Association (which a year or two after changed its name to the present National Union of Labour Agents.

Alf. had no easy task. A pound to £3 a week was commonly paid to agents then, and all sorts of ineligible persons, 'paid', half-paid, and unpaid secretaries, crowded its first Conferences, all eager to help, but not knowing exactly their direction. The great surge forward of Labour's forces, in the last years of the first war was reflected in the Association, which by 1918 had 100 members—at 10s. 6d. a year.

'Twas a wet day in Manchester in the spring of 1920 that I took over the Association secretaryship from Alf. In the same year I helped to give the new Union its present form.

Alf. received me nobly, and showed me his pet project for helping his Party—a cinema in a largish hall adjoining the Party office. How he found time for these things I don't know, for he was then a member of the City Council (he later became Alderman), and a member of the Board of Guardians. He won the Parliamentary seat at every election, 1918, 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1929, till the great debacle of 1931: and he regained it in 1935. May be it was his quiet day-by-day drudgery in that city that did the trick.

An obituary nearly always makes macabre reading. But Alf. would sooner that I tell the story I am now going to tell than that I should conceal it.

It was in 1919 that I was called on to take charge of the Widnes by-election, with just 10 days to go, no organisation in a strong Tory territory, but with Arthur Henderson as candidate—he whom our shattered forces in the House badly needed back as its organising force.

We had started off with a bang, manning the whole constituency with imported forces in three days—Alf. James was one of the first at my side. But reports were coming in that Uncle Arthur's alleged 'pussy-foot' views were doing great harm in a big working-class quarter, which it was essential we should carry.

I consulted Alf., and he took over the area, asking that he should be allotted as 'all-day' speakers the late Jack Jones, M.P., and the late Jack Davison, M.P. Now those Cheerble brothers were a pleasing pair in that quarter, and what

with Alf's own ruddy face and hail-fellow manner I guessed aright that the Tory 'pussy-foot' campaign (in which my own name was unfortunately hopelessly entangled) would come unstuck.

In two days, canvass returns were coming in from Alf. and they got better and better. They even started a second canvass and on the eve of the poll I realised that every fetcher-up I could spare would be needed on the morrow. And in response to telegraph appeals sent three days before we had *queues of helpers* on polling day from all parts of Lancashire. Indeed, I headed a procession of nearly 40 off one train.

Of course victory came. And on the day of declaration Arthur Henderson, two others and I, toured the constituency in a carriage and pair. We went to Alf's area first; and never in all the delirium of election fevers have I seen such sights. The whole district shrieked and danced in delight. Women tore down red curtains, seized red tablecloths, anything red, to wave them. A few women took off their

red petticoats and danced an apache dance in front of our carriage in a manner that must have shaken the austere Arthur to the core.

For long I wore a halo for that election that properly belonged to Alf. James. For 'twas he that won it. So in the fullness of time I raise my hat to his memory—the pride of Poplar and of Platting.

* * * * *

Dare I add a denouement? During 'settling up' Alf. came to me with an account. It was the expenses of 'we three'. One glance and I begged him to take the obscene thing away. He laughed, and from the other pocket produced a bill of like total to 'expenses of meetings'. I paid, and no more passed. But knowing both Jacks as I did I have often wondered since if that bill wasn't for 'expenses of greetings'.

Three dead men: good men, merry men. But they alone could solve that riddle. God rest them—and their like who made our Movement, and moulded you and me.

Stowmarket Keeps Contact

STOWMARKET is a small but thriving market town, and as such as an equally thriving Chamber of Trade.

At times of local elections this fact becomes very obvious to our Local Party, for it is from this source that our opposition springs. It is essential, therefore, that we should have an effective local election machine to counter any propaganda disseminated by them.

The fact that a large number of our members are on shift work makes it very difficult for them to attend party meetings; it is therefore important that we should have some alternative method of maintaining a personal contact with them, thereby retaining their interest and membership.

It was considered advisable to appoint a number of party 'representatives', each responsible for a small number of members in his (or her) own immediate vicinity. These representatives also were made responsible for the collection of subscriptions, the sale and distribution of literature, and the most important duty of speedy distribution of election addresses and propaganda.

This activity is co-ordinated through the Literature Secretary, who maintains per-

sonal contact with all the representatives. Subscriptions of course are handed to the treasurer periodically.

For convenience, the system was organised in the following manner. The whole town was divided into 24 areas of fairly equal size, each area comprising one or two adjoining streets, from which one member was recruited to accept personal responsibility for all members in that small area. By this method it is possible to contact *within one hour* each of the 2,000 houses in Stowmarket.

The intimate knowledge of each representative of his own particular vicinity, we find, is the most effective method of holding—and, more important, gradually increasing—party membership.

How does this work out in practice? So far it has proved successful, and is the backbone of our organisation, giving us great hopes for the future. It has the added merit of more equally distributing the work of the party, relieving the over-worked secretary, thus increasing individual interest and creating unity.

E. J. JONES

SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTING DESCRIBED

Account-keeping is the art of recording business transactions in such a way as to present, at any given time, an accurate statement of the financial arrangements and to enable anyone to ascertain the amount of assets and liabilities, both generally and particularly.

Where human agency is employed there is always an element of uncertainty, because there is always a possibility of error. Therefore, any scientific system of account-keeping which will provide for almost complete accuracy and at the same

by Cyril Faulkner

IS the time now opportune and is it desirable to try and introduce, at Constituency Labour Party level, some degree of uniformity in the method of account-keeping? Would there be any benefits to be derived from such application and would it make for financial efficiency in the conduct of party finances? Given careful consideration, the answers, I think, would be in the affirmative.

Good treasurers, like good secretaries, are the salt of the earth. Unfortunately, however, treasurers and finance officers come and go all too quickly, but the work of the Party must go on, and consequently financial commitments have to be met. Therefore, it can be reasonably argued, that some degree of standardisation or uniformity, would certainly, if it did nothing more, make for continuity locally, and would in the collecting and collating of financial information materially assist at regional and national levels.

It is certainly alarming to learn that there are scores of local Labour Parties—and indeed many constituency parties who do not operate a banking account. As in many cases considerable sums of money are involved, such practice is most unhealthy, unscientific, and militates against efficiency. Every party should be encouraged to open a banking account. Good and ample facilities are provided by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Bankers, who will gladly supply information on application.

What is the essence of account-keeping? It can be stated quite briefly; it is just commonsense and arithmetic.

time prevent mistakes remaining undiscovered, should be welcomed—and operated. This is provided by the Double Entry system of book-keeping, now commonly in use. I cannot go into details at this stage, only to state this; although there are many variations in practice, this theory is based on the fact that in every transaction two things are involved, namely, a giving and receiving, and in double entry book-keeping both these items are considered and, as two ideas are involved, two entries are made in the books.

The modern trend in accountancy is to use tabulation wherever possible. Tabulation consists of having extra analysis columns, one for each item—both for receipts and expenditure. The various sources of income and expenditure, can then be divided, and comparisons, for the purposes of reports, etc., quickly made. This system is so important a safeguard against error. It is an economiser of time and labour, and is, at the same time, so simple of application. Analysis or tabulation, is not in any way a substitute for double entry, it is simply an adjunct to it.

The illustrations on page 55 will make the principle of the analysis system clear. Additional columns can be made to suit the needs and desires of the party concerned. It will be seen that when the columns are cast in the usual way, and the lines cast across, the total of the columns equals the total of the lines, as must always be the case, and thus the totals prove each other.

There is hardly any class of business in which tabulation of receipts and pay-

ments, is not found advantageous, are common to all Constituency Labour especially as it conduces to simplicity of working and accuracy of results.

The essence of good accountancy, is accuracy, neatness and promptitude in making the necessary book entries. It is always a wise procedure to give a receipt for money received and always get one for payments made, no matter how small the sum may be.

As the keynote of this article is conciseness, I have been unable to go into any great detail. My main point is, that

many items of receipt and expenditure Parties, and therefore, lend themselves to standardisation. (Additional columns could be provided *ad lib* to allow for variations in local conditions.) It has many times been mooted, that Regional Offices could produce a standardised account book, based on the tabulation method, at a reasonable economic cost. These books could be supplied to Constituency Labour Parties and their use would tend to establish some degree of uniformity in the management of Party finances at constituency level.

ANALYSIS BOOK RULING

RECEIPTS

Date	Particulars	Total Receipts	Balances b/f.	Membership Contributions		Affiliation Fees	Sale of Literature		Bank Account Date Amount	
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1	Balance b/f. ..	50 0 0	50 0 0			—	—	—	Jan. 1	£ 40 0 0
4	Manton L.P. ..	10 0 0	—	10 0 0	—	—	—	—		—
6	N.U.R. ..	6 0 0	—			6 0 0	—	—		—
12	Labour Organiser	10 0	—	—	—	—	10 0	—	30	20 10 0
31		£66 10 0	50 0 0	10 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	10 0	—	31	£60 10 0

EXPENDITURE

Date	Particulars	Total Expenditure	Membership Cards	Printing	Affiliation Fees	Literature	Paid to Bank	Bank Acc. Cheque payments
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jan. 2	Labour Party ..	15 0 0	15 0 0	—	—	—	—	15 0 0
6	Regional Council ..	2 10 0	—		2 10 0	—	—	2 10 0
12	Smith & Sons Ltd. ..	12 0	—	12 0	—	—	—	—
14	Labour Organiser ..	9 0	—	—	—	9 0	—	9 0
30	Cash to Bank ..	30 0 0	—	—	—	—	30 0 0	—
31		£48 11 0	15 0 0	12 0	2 10 0	9 0	30 0 0	17 19 0

Many variations of the above can be made and the columns can be produced *ad lib*.

It would be useful to break down the total receipts to show whether cash or a cheque receipt.

All Political Agents are agreed

that the

“SAVE-TIME” CANVASS BOOKS

are the most useful and dependable method of securing canvass results. Send for samples and list of constituencies where already adopted.

EDWARDS & BRYNING LTD., ROCHDALE

Around the Regions

TWO BOLD EXPERIMENTS

BOLD experiments in membership development are being introduced by two neighbouring Worcestershire constituencies. Each is to have a full-time officer to deal with membership subscriptions.

South Worcestershire, a difficult constituency—Labour vote 14,434 and Tory majority 12,795—has appointed a full-time Canvasser-Collector to start in March.

He will receive a fixed salary for a trial period of six months. If his appointment justifies continuance the basic salary will be decreased and a bonus paid on all subscriptions collected. This bonus will be increased as membership is developed beyond 1,500 and 2,000.

He will at first cover only the borough of Evesham and the rural districts of Evesham and Pershore—for the time being Malvern urban district and Upton-on-Severn rural district will be outside his scope. The present constituency membership is under 800, of which only half is within the area to be covered. Thus he has to increase membership substantially to justify the appointment and make it an economic proposition.

The other constituency is Kidderminster—with a substantial membership of about 2,800 (only 524 in 1949); Labour vote 20,425 and a Tory majority of 5,158.

The party is considering the appointment of a full-time Membership Officer, to be responsible for collection of subscriptions and membership records. Final details are to be discussed with the Local Parties. It is intended to make the appointment in June.

Kidderminster covers the three rural districts of Kidderminster, Martley and Tenbury, the boroughs of Bewdley and Kidderminster and Stourport urban district. The officer is to be responsible for membership collections in the three towns, and in selected parts of the rural districts.

A basic wage will be paid, plus a commission on collections over £50 per month. In addition a bonus will be paid for each new member enrolled.

The circumstances in each constituency are different. Kidderminster has a full-time Agent, but South Worcestershire has not. In Kidderminster a good figure of

membership has been achieved, the problem being to keep collecting machinery at an efficient level; moreover, with many key workers engaged on collections it is felt further membership recruitment and propaganda work will lag. Membership in South Worcestershire is low. Active workers are few, and the difficulties of collection are great.

Although a revision of subscriptions between constituency and local parties may be necessary, the local parties should secure increased income from the appointments, but it is not suggested that the constituency parties will derive much financial advancement.

We shall watch these two appointments with interest—they may have far-reaching effect.

H. R. UNDERHILL.

West Midlands.

Ward Redistribution

PRE-OCCUPATION with the selection of candidates for the Borough Council elections (we have to find nearly 1,400 in the County of London alone, where we have triennial elections) has not prevented us from dealing with another very important preliminary towards the conduct of these elections. This is the matter of *ward redistribution*.

Schemes of redistribution have come about in various ways, but in nearly all cases the Regional Office has been aware, through our very comprehensive records, of the need for revision of boundaries, or alteration of the number of councillors. The circumstances vary so greatly from borough to borough, that it is not possible in a short article to give more than a direct indication of the anomalies it was desired to correct.

In one case in central London a borough had lost a great part of its former population and obviously now had too many wards and too many councillors: in another a great housing development between the wars had been scarcely recognised in representation at the Town Hall. In yet another case no alteration in the wards had taken place since the

orough was established in the year 1900. This interest by the Regional Office in ward boundaries has been going on since just after the war and we have been able to accumulate a good deal of experience which is placed at the disposal of the parties concerned. We have been at great pains to insist that the organisation of the wards of an area was not principally a matter for the Council, or the Council Labour Group, but was one so closely affecting the whole structure of the Party—as well as the electoral fortunes of the Party—that the Party Organisers needed to be brought into consultation at the earliest possible stage.

The guiding principles we have attempted to follow are that the ward set-up should be conceived not on grounds of party advantage but of community interest and that the boundaries should, as far as possible, be recognisable and have some genuine meaning to the inhabitants.

We have had some striking successes in the decisions of the Home Secretary on the schemes put up to him. Naturally we hope that our prospects electorally are not worsened by any of these revisions but we are satisfied that, whatever the immediate effect, the long-run advantage of the sound ward organisation of any local Authority area will benefit the Labour Party.

J. W. RAISIN.

London.

Miners Join Up

SINCE coming to the East Midlands, I have been repeatedly told in our safe Labour mining constituencies that miners will not become individual members of the Party. 'They pay their political levy and they think that is enough', I have been told on many occasions. Let me hasten to say I have never agreed with these people. In the main it has been the excuse not to embark on membership campaigns.

I knew that sooner or later I would come across the party who could and would enrol miners, and now it has happened. Dowlmstowe is that party. It is a mining community, in the Newark constituency, it has an electorate of 2,143 and a Labour vote at the last local elections of 932, with the Tories polling 508.

Of the 932 Labour voters, 433 have been enrolled in the party. And it is not paper membership either. In 1952, the party

collected £85 in subscriptions, an average of nearly 4s. per member. This membership represents about a quarter of the membership of the constituency, which includes many other mining areas, where we could do the same if our parties would only get down to the job.

I hope this example will encourage all our parties in mining areas, not only in the East Midlands coalfields but throughout the country, to bring into the party the many miners who are waiting to be enrolled.

J. CATTERMOLE.

East Midlands.

Educational Effort

SUNDERLAND Borough Labour Party is to be congratulated on a very useful educational effort. It decided to run a Study Course on Party Organisation, Election Law and the Conduct of Parliamentary and Local Government Elections. Geoffrey Foster, Secretary and Agent, prepared a syllabus to cover ten sessions, dealing with every phase of the subject.

He next set about securing lecturers and fixed up Tel Eldred, Agent at Hartlepools, on the "Franchise and Election Law", and Mrs. Margaret Gibb and myself, each to give two lectures and, of course, himself. The completed syllabus, which was very detailed, together with a circular letter, was sent to key workers and as a result 28 students turned up for the first lecture. Seven sessions have now been held and the average attendance has been 22. To lighten the proceedings a cup of tea and a biscuit was provided between the lecture and the questions.

Students were encouraged to take an active part in the proceedings, and the fourth session of the series was devoted to a re-cap by the students of the first three lectures and to a Brains Trust on the subject matter.

Another session was concerned with the day to day work of electioneering and students in turn gave practical demonstrations of the work of the Meetings, Canvassing and Transport Officers and of the Committee Room Clerk.

Further sessions will deal with Local Government Elections, Organisation of Public Meetings, Lay-out of printed matter, Election Address, Posters and Leaflet design:

At the final session the students will tackle a Test Paper and the two students

with the highest marks will be awarded free entrance to the Diploma Study Course.

W. B. LEWCOCK.

Northern.

Scottish Night Out

MORE and more Scottish Labour Parties are arranging 'Burns Night' celebrations in order to do homage to the Scottish National Bard, Robert Burns.

The Roxburgh and Selkirk C.L.P. made their first venture at Galashiels on 30th January.

Proceedings began with the saying of the 'Selkirk Grace' by Mr. L. A. Morrison, the Parliamentary candidate, then to the skirl of the bagpipes the croupier, led by a piper in full Highland dress, carried in the smoking haggis 'great chieftain o' the pudding race'.

The menu was: Kale; Haggis, Neeps, Champit Tatties; Shivverin' Tam (Scotch Trifle); and a wee drap 'Scotch' to wash it down.

After the repast, we had toasts, songs, recitations and speeches. 'The Immortal Memory to Robert Burns' was proposed by Mr. L. A. Morrison, whose address brought forth an interesting description of the rich humanity of the poet's songs and works, and ended with the traditional words which stir all Socialists 'man to man the world o'er, shall brothers be for a' that'.

I had to make the presentation to Mr. Anderson, whose dry wit is a source of delight to his friends and has a paralytical effect on his political enemies. In his reply to the presentation, Mr. Anderson gave us some very interesting stories about the early days. Here are some extracts from his reports of outdoor propaganda meetings:

May 23rd, 1905. Speaker—Tom Johnstone. Place—Hawick. Collection—1/7d. Speaker's expenses—1/6. Literature sold—1/4d. General remarks—poor.

May 24th, 1905. Speaker—Tom Johnstone. Place—Selkirk. Collection—2/1d. Speaker's Expenses—2/6d. Literature sold—7/10d. General remarks—good meeting.

June 8th, 1908. Speaker—James Maxton. Place—Galashiels. Collection—8/8d. Speaker's expenses—1/8d. Literature sold—4/6d. General remarks—marvellous meeting. 'Gala going Left'.

June 9th, 1908. Speaker—James Maxton. Place—Hawick. Collection—3/3d. Speaker's expenses—1/-. Literature sold—

2/11½d. General remarks—Hawick backward.

(It seems to me that many present day Local Labour Parties could learn the lesson of insisting upon reports of literature sold at every meeting.)

Robert Anderson explained that money did not count in the old days. They appointed four full-time organisers who carried on for 18 months and who are still waiting on their salaries. They received hospitality and accommodation from local comrades, and in an aside, Bob Anderson said this probably accounted for the organisers not having been able to get their hair cut.

George Dallas was also in a reminiscent vein. He told how, after he had fought Roxburgh and Selkirk in 1923 and 1924, a woman well-wisher came to him and said "Try another one, George. The third time is fatal." George wryly remarked he was having no third time.

Elliott Pow, who has been voluntary agent of the constituency for 35 years, proposed the toast to 'The Labour Party' and told of intimidation and victimisations which were suffered by the Socialist propagandists and which were still being suffered in some parts of this constituency.

In the wee sma' 'ours of the morning the company broke up to the singing of 'Ald Lang Syne'.

'We'll meet again some ither nicht for auld lang syne.'

W. G. MARSHALL.

Scottish.

Welsh Rally

CONSTITUENCY, Local and Ward Labour Parties, Women's Sections, etc., throughout Wales are busily engaged in organising savings groups, making banners, rosettes, ordering coaches and arranging for refreshments, etc., etc., in preparation for the fifth Annual All-Wales Labour Rally, to be held on the 1st Saturday in July.

The Rally is to be held at Newtown, Montgomeryshire, in Central Wales, roughly about 100 miles from the industrial part of South Wales and about the same distance to the coastline in North Wales. A large number who will attend will, therefore, travel a return journey of 200 miles.

The Pavilion, in which the Rally will be held, will accommodate 5,000 people seated. Admission will be by 1s. ticket
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PUTTING YOUR CANDIDATE ACROSS

by C. PROTHERO

PROSPECTIVE Parliamentary candidate has been enthusiastic-
ly adopted for a certain constituency. Arrangements have been made for a public meeting to introduce the candidate to the electors. A large audience, including representatives of the local newspaper, has attended the meeting.

After the meeting all concerned are happy and enthusiastic. The candidate and the officers of the constituency Party say that, of course, further meetings must be arranged. But weeks and, it may be, a month or more, go by before the officers and executive committee, being fully engaged upon other matters, find themselves able to consider the problem of further meetings.

Then in the Executive, or the General Committee of the party someone asks, "Isn't it time we got the candidate to address another meeting?" Whereupon arrangements are hastily made for a meeting or so.

Clearly there should be some system in this matter. It is no help to the candi-

date, to the constituency party, or to the public to arrange occasional and unrelated meetings at odd times.

In large county constituencies particularly we lose many votes because our candidate is not known. I would go so far as to say that the real battle of ideas on the platform and in the minds of the electors does not begin until the candidates are personally *known*. To many electors candidates who are not known are mere abstractions who arouse no interest.

Thus it is essential that at the outset the constituency as a whole should be surveyed by the responsible officers and the candidate. Then at regular intervals a series of public and Party meetings should be arranged so that, within a reasonable period, and having regard to the size of the constituency, the candidate will speak in all the important places.

Throughout the period between elections the regular series of meetings should be continued.

Above all, let there be a plan, covering a period of, say, three or six months at a time. Do not, except on special occasions, expect the candidate to visit the constituency for a single meeting. This is clearly a wasteful use of his time.

In the early stages, it is wise for a local councillor, or some other person, with knowledge of local problems to share the platform with the Parliamentary candidate, so that if necessary he can either deal with these problems himself, or advise the candidate upon them.

It goes without saying that all Party members should be informed by circular, handbill or personal message when the candidate is taking a meeting in their district. So many other events compete in these days for the attention of the electors that wide publicity and, indeed, personal canvassing are needed to ensure good audiences at meetings. Special efforts should always be made to get a substantial number of Party members to attend.

The Press Officer, or some other appropriate person, should let the local newspapers have full particulars of all public meetings in good time. If no reporter

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(continued from page 58)

ly, by the first week in February over 200 tickets had been sold.

On each previous occasion we have been fortunate in having the "Clerk of the Weather" on our side, which has enabled us to have a procession, accompanied by bands, through the little market town of Newtown. The procession has been a display of "pageantry" with the different coloured and beautifully arranged banners, and with those taking part wearing rosettes with the Labour Party colours. Oh, by the way, it should be mentioned here that we have Labour Party colours for the whole of Wales, namely Red, Yellow and Green).

The speaker this year will be the Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P., who is assured of a great reception.

Welsh.

WYCOMBE

WHILE I have no desire to prolong the inquest on the Wycombe by-election, the remarks of R. Belben in the January *Organiser* cannot be left unanswered.

Although not a wealthy party (we closed the year with a deficit), lack of literature was certainly not the cause of our failure. Since 1945 it has been the practice of this party to hold regular rural and borough campaigns, sometimes twice annually, during which we distribute on each occasion some 10,000 pieces of literature, a considerable portion of which was obtained free from Transport House. I am not suggesting for one moment that this was sufficient and we could have done with more, but it contradicts the impression given by R. Belben.

In addition, our candidate, John Haire, wrote a weekly political feature in our local paper, which has a circulation of 30,000 and is widely read: this in itself was a first-class propaganda effort.

H. E. SLIGHT,
Chairman, Wycombe C.L.P.

(continued from page 59)

appears at a meeting, someone responsible should prepare and post to the editors of the local newspapers a brief report immediately after the meeting. The report should be typed and should be double spaced.

Wherever possible the candidate should be advertised to speak on a subject of topical interest. This arouses more curiosity than an advertisement of a vague public meeting which has no specific subject.

Parliamentary candidates are finding it useful nowadays to hold meetings at which they simply answer questions instead of making set speeches. No doubt in many constituencies a judicious mixture of these 'Any Questions' meetings and ordinary public meetings is practical.

Finally, it should be noted that it is always useful for Parliamentary candidates to attend and address non-political meetings.

The more the candidate is identified with the general as well as the strictly political life of the constituency the better. He

is a public servant as well as a politician. His activities form part of our tried and tested system of Parliamentary Democracy.

DON ALGER
Propaganda Officer

(continued from page 43)

Section, a person shall be disqualified for being elected or being a member of a local authority if he—

'(a) holds any paid office or other place of profit (other than that of mayor, chairman or sheriff) in the gift or disposal of the local authority or of any committee thereof.'

This means that no person can stand for the council which employs him. He can, of course, stand for another council if qualified to do so. County council employees, for instance, can stand for borough, urban or rural district councils provided sub-section (2) is observed. This states :

'Any paid officer of a local authority who is employed under the direction of a committee or sub-committee of the authority, any member of which is appointed on the nomination of some other local authority, shall be disqualified for being elected or being a member of that other local authority.'

The implication of this sub-section, especially in these days of delegated powers, makes it necessary for a person employed by a local authority to make certain of his position if at all in doubt. Enquiry should be made of his trade union or local authority. It is not possible for us at Head Office to give advice unless precise and accurate information is given.

Section 10 (2) of the Education Act 1946, has clarified to a great extent the position of teachers. If qualified, a teacher can stand and sit for—

A county council if not employed in the service of such council;

Any county borough council if not employed in the service of such council;

A borough or urban district council unless the council is, as such, the Divisional Executive of that area in which the teacher is serving;

A rural or parish council.

LEN SIMS
National Agent's Department